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MAY-JUNE 1957

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SOCIAL ACTION

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MAY & JUNE 1957

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PRESS NOTE

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL ORDER, POONA

Recognition of Diploma in Social Service

The Government of India in a Press Note dated 28-4-1956 had stated that the question of recognizing the Diploma in Social Service awarded by the Institute of Social Order, Poona, was under consideration. The matter has now been examined and the Government of India are of the opinion that, where, in addition to other educational qualifications, training in Social Service is prescribed as an essential or desirable qualification, holders of this Diploma may be regarded as having the requisite training.

This Side and That

Steamrolling

At the fag end of the Parliamentary session, an honourable member told a story and proposed a law, which betrays a too frequent mentality in budding democracies. In a third-class compartment, a non-smoker invited a fellow-passenger to stop smoking; he pleaded, argued, and finally carried his point with the point of his dagger, thus demonstrating the irritant effect of nicotine on non-smokers. The member urged that smoking be prohibited in third-class compartments; the minister demurred. He knew that the only effective way of stopping smoking in third-class compartments would be to suppress the third-class compartments; he rightly argued that rules and regulations do not suffice to ward off all misdemeanours and all murders. Gandhiji would have urged heart-conversion in smokers and in non-smokers. Continuous social education works more reforms than legislation; and in the meantime a fair measure of liberty is to be guaranteed to all citizens; legislators should restrain their zeal and shun passing a law to suppress one or other delinquency; free citizens are allergic to compulsory virtue.

Rules and Regulations

Similar reflections arise when reading of the proposed Orphanages and Widows' Homes Act, 1956. A committee had gone the round of such institutions and had found one or other establishment which was not up to the mark. Hardly had the Report been published

than a member fancied an act of Parliament was necessary to the virtue and life of our women folk. Board of control, elected Management Committee, chairman, chief-inspector and assistant-inspectors, method of accountancy, even a syllabus of instruction including morals and excluding religion, a whole machinery of administration was proposed, discussed and circulated. Was it all necessary, because a few institutions were at fault? Have we not enough law for the protection of women, laws against kidnapping, abduction, prostitution, etc? Was it wise to harass the many good social workers in the hope of preventing one or other criminal offense against which a remedy already existed?

Do reformers fancy that miscreants cannot evade the new law? Did not the Calcutta bordellos change over night into clinics, massage rooms, etc? Will not bogus institutions change their signboards into Women's Hostels, Pensioners Paradise, Jolly Trumps Palace, and so on, with slight alterations in routine, fee, boarding rules, etc., and will not the ancient labels, like Orphanage and Home simply vanish away? In the meantime what a harassment for true social workers? Endless trips to offices, long waiting sessions, forms to be filled in, vouchers to be preserved, registers to be kept for each and every donation, etc., etc., enough indeed to discourage genuine social workers.

Let our legislators grow aware that dedicated people, like the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Good Shepherd nuns, the Sisters of Charity and so many others, are not used to measure and count their ser-

vices, write vouchers for each loaf of bread and each handful of rice they beg day after day, enter all that into account books and have them audited. They are allergic to vouchers, and have little time to spend on accounts; what they are keen on is to serve and rehabilitate the poor, the sick, the invalid, the lepers, the human wrecks of our democracies. Social work is spoiled by bureaucracy; genuine charity which is service from person to person does not talk officialese.

Political Selections

With ministers duly cautioned against pomp and obsolescence, with a Parliament renewed and a house renovated, one may expect that the next session will be marked with realistic debates and subdued eloquence. Too often do we read of speeches in the grand manner on a small matter. Possibly it was due largely to the fact that our candidates had been hurriedly chosen and that quite a few had been selected for their forensic powers. Psychologists might be helpful in selection committees. Freudians would venture to explain verbo-motor temperaments in their own way and point out to dubious origins of eloquence. According to them, oral needs developed in the child during the lactation period persist through life. Infantile libido would in mature life break out in oratorical facility. We are told the best way to shunt off such impulses would be to take to modern substitutes: cigarettes, saxophones, chewing gum. The theory might be checked, were we to have supplies of such substitutes available in the canteens of Parliaments, or of the U. N. O. palace. In any case let us have no private bill to impose early weaning on children parents destined

to parliamentary work. Obviously a good citizen shuns such an explanation, and refrains from suggesting any private bill to prevent occasional displays of unmeasured eloquence. He knows or surmizes that a libido craving does not suffice to account for the conviction and vigour of our representatives ; he does his best to believe that the voice of Parliament is or may be the voice of the people.

Red Shadows

Kerala has become a problem state. Our *Election Survey* analyses the causes and circumstances of the Red victory. What does the future holds in its wrappings ? What will occur in the tussle between Congress Brahmins and Communist philosophers ? How much potential Communism is latent in our constitution ? For the moment one hears only the Reds protesting that they are legitimate children of democracy, that the Kerala Communism is a new type of Communism, a Communism which has a deep regard for a democratic Constitution, which is not a philosophy of life, which is respectful of religion, which does not take it as an axiom that whatever is useful to the party, that and that alone, is morally defensible and imperative, a Communism which is not Communist, and yet is a genuine brand of Communism. To such pleadings and protests, those who know Communist philosophy, ethics and history can only answer for the present : Go and tell the marines !

A. L.

Trade Unions in the Chinese Peoples Republic

It is a well known fact that China and India have much in common. Our villages enjoy, to a large extent, the same pattern of life. Methods of cultivation for long years have remained the same in both countries. Small and highly fragmented holdings, the continual pressure of population upon the land and lack of non-farm employment characterise the rural economy of both China and India.

What, perhaps, is less realised in India, today, is the great change which is taking place in modern China. As in India, the national economy of China is being built on the basis of Five Year Plans. The first Five Year Plan comes to a close this year, 1957, and the draft outline of the second Five Year Plan (1958-1962) is already prepared and published.

In this background of a developing economy, the picture of organized labour in China presents an interesting study. Paradoxically, the attempt to draw such a picture of the Trade Unions in new China, is both easy and difficult. It is easy because it merely means giving a sketch of the Trade Unions in the country, as outlined by official Chinese documents which deal with the Labour Laws and regulations of the country. On the other hand, it is difficult, because there is not much material or literature which tell us, in an unbiased manner, how these Trade Unions

actually function. In fact, it would be no exaggeration to say that disinterested factual reports on the conditions which obtain in the country hardly exist. On the other hand, propaganda literature which favours or discredits the ideologies of the rulers must, of necessity, give us a distorted picture of The Peoples' Republic of China.

The Rise of Trade Unionism in the Chinese Peoples' Republic.

The modern trade union movement may be said to have begun after the first World War. "Ever since its first days, it has developed under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The Communist Party of China after it was founded on July 1, 1921, established the Chinese Trade Union Secretariat, openly to lead the working-class movement of the country." (1)

The Secretariat undertook the building of trade unionism in the country and under its auspices the All-China Labour Congress was held on several occasions. The first Congress met at Canton in May 1922 and was attended by 162 delegates representing 200,000 workers organized in more than a hundred trade unions from twelve cities. The Congress discussed ways and means of eliminating "the craft-outlook" from among union members and adopted such slogans as 'Down with imperialism' and 'Down with the warlords'. At this Congress it was resolved that the Secretariat should be recognised as the liaison centre for the trade unions of the whole country.

Between 1922 and the early months of 1923, the workers' struggle found expression in the numerous

strikes which broke out among railway workers, clockers, seamen and factory workers and miners. The KMT met these disturbances with stern measures and, for a time, it would appear that the Communist-infiltrated unions were driven underground.

In May 1925, the second All-China Labour Congress was held again in Canton. The importance of this Congress lies in the fact, that, firstly, it resolved to set up an All-China Federation of Trade Unions, and, secondly, "In order to link up the struggle of the Chinese workers with that of the workers of the whole world, the Congress voted to affiliate with the Red International of Labour Unions." (2).

The third All-China Labour Congress was held in Canton in May 1926. It was attended by 502 delegates, representing 699 trade unions with a membership of over a million. The Congress insisted that the Chinese working-class should rally to the support of the National Revolutionary Army which was locked in struggle with the KMT forces. Another aim of this Congress was the union between the industrial workers and the peasants, who then constituted about 80% of the country's population.

The fourth All-China Labour Congress held its session at Hankow in June 1927. It condemned General Chiang Kai-Sek for what it called the betrayal of the revolution, and appealed to the workers to carry on the struggle. Here it may be mentioned that the KMT policy towards trade unions was one which tended towards strict control, and even repression of these

organisations, till about 1937. Yet, despite this KMT policy and the agitation of the Communists, many unions maintained themselves reasonably well, while the so called Yellow Unions, in particular, managed to resist Communist infiltration with some measure of success.

With the invasion of China by Japan in 1937, the fortunes of the trade unions took a new turn. The KMT adopted a policy of controlled promotion of trade unions, while the Communist dominated All-China Federation of Trade Unions (the ACFTU) operated in both Japanese occupied territories and in areas still held by the KMT forces.

September 1945 marks an important mile-stone in the development of the modern trade unions in Republican China. In that month, the World Federation of Trade Unions held its Constituent Congress in Paris, and the Chinese trade unions formally joined that international body. Meanwhile, the Communist dominated unions in China were engaged in a struggle with both the Japanese invaders and the KMT forces.

During 1949, when the so-called Chinese Peoples' War of Liberation was moving to its end, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions met in Peking in July. It took up the question of organizing the workers on a nation-wide scale, and about this time, all unions which did not federate were liquidated. In June 1950, the Trade Union Law of the Peoples' Republic of China was promulgated by the Central Peoples' Government. In May 1953, the seventh All-China Congress of Trade

Unions opened in Peking. The delegates who attended the Congress numbered 830 and represented 10,200,000 trade union members.

The Organisation and Structure of the Trade Unions of the Peoples' Republic of China.

On June 28th, 1950, the Central Peoples' Government at its eight session approved the Trade Union Law of the country. From a study of this document and that of the Constitution of the Trade Unions, we may gather some idea as to the nature and set-up of these organisations.

Some general principles (From the Trade Union Law).

Chapter 1, article 1, tells us that "Trade unions are mass organisations of the working-class formed on a voluntary basis. All wage workers, including manual and brain-workers in enterprises, institutions and schools in Chinese territory whose wage constitute their sole or main means of livelihood, and all wage workers in irregular employment shall have the right to organize trade unions."

Hence, on the part of the workers, this principle lays down that only such workers as are wage-earners shall have the right to form trade unions. On the part of the organization itself, Article 3 lays down the principle that only such organisations as are "formed in accordance with the resolutions and Constitution adopted by the All-China Labour Congress and various congresses of industrial unions..." shall receive recognition as trade unions in the country.

Because this Article reserves recognition of unions to those only which are established according to the resolutions and constitution adopted by the All-China Labour Congress, it naturally follows, as Article 4 lays down, that, "All other bodies not organized in accordance with Article 3 of this Law shall not be called trade unions and shall not be entitled to the rights laid down in this Law."

Some Principles of Organisation

Chapter Two, Article Seven of the Constitution reads: "The organizational principle of industrial unions is as follows: All trade union members in the same enterprise or institution are organized in one single primary organization; all trade union members in the same industrial branch of the national economy are organized in the same national industrial union". That is to say, "Under the principle of organisation along industrial lines, all trade union members in the same enterprise or office are grouped together in one single basic organisation; and all trade union members in the same industrial branch of the national economy are organized in the same national industrial union. Local trade unions, whenever possible, are to be organized along industrial lines. Thus, all the workers of an integrated iron and steel works — steel smelters, mechanists, building workers, electrical workers, transport workers, engineers and technicians, and other workers and staff members — are organized in the same primary trade union body which is part of the national heavy industry workers' trade union". (3)

It is interesting to note, that Article 14 of the Trade Union Law lays down that, "Apart from the primary trade union committees formed in accordance with Articles 3 and 13 of this Law, and approved by the industrial unions or the local unions, no other organisations in factories, mines, business establishments, farms, institutions, schools and other productive or administrative units shall be entitled to the rights enjoyed by the primary trade union committees".

The administrative set-up of these trade unions are covered in Chapter Three, Articles 12 to 20 of the Constitution. The supreme leading body of the trade unions is the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, while the supreme authority is vested in the All-China Trade Union Congress which is to meet every four years. This Congress elects the Executive Committee and the Auditing Commission, and in general, the Congress has the duty to define the policies and tasks of the trade unions throughout the country, and in the international field. The Executive Committee, at its plenary session, elects a "Presidium", and a Secretariat. The Presidium acts for the Executive Committee when the latter is not in session, while the Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of the trade union movement in the country.

The Rights and Duties of Trade Unions

Chapter Two, Article 5 to 12 cover the rights and duties of the trade unions. In general, trade unions have the right to represent the workers and staff members in taking part in administering production, in concluding collective agreements, in taking part in

labour-capital consultative councils, and to ask managements at the corresponding levels to submit reports on their work to the trade union committees.

Article Seven of this Chapter lays down, in general, the duties of Trade Unions. They have "to protect the interest of workers and staff members, to ensure that managements, or the owners of private enterprises, effectively carry out labour protection, labour insurance, wage standards, factory sanitation and safety measures as stipulated in the laws and decrees of the government....."

Membership in Trade Unions

The first Chapter of the Constitution, in Articles one to five treat of membership in the trade unions of the country. Membership is open to all workers on two conditions: firstly, that they be wage-earners, and secondly, that they be willing to accept the Constitution of the Trade Unions.

Generally speaking, members have the right to elect and be elected, to make suggestions and proposals for improving trade union work, to criticize any trade union official and to enjoy priority in the collective cultural and welfare establishments run by trade unions.

Trade union members have the duty to observe the laws and decrees of the State and labour discipline; to take care of public property; to assiduously engage in political, technical and cultural studies so as to raise

their class-consciousness and working ability, and to observe the Constitution and pay membership dues.

Trade Unionists enjoy various social, medical and old age benefits as provided for by the Labour Insurance Regulations, which were adopted and promulgated by the Government Administration Council on January 2nd, 1953.

Some Significant characteristics of Trade Unions in the Peoples' Republic of China.

From a study of the two documents: The Trade Union Law of the Peoples' Republic of China and the Constitution of the Trade Unions of the Peoples' Republic of China, there emerges a few points which give these Unions their specific character:—

Firstly, just as there is officially, but one political party in the country, so also, there is but one type of Trade Union in China, which alone is allowed, officially to exist and function.

This seems to emerge from a reading of Article 4, Chapter one, of the Trade Union Law which says: "All other bodies not organized in accordance with Article 3 of this Law shall not be called trade unions, and shall not be entitled to the rights laid down in this Law."

The same view emerges from a reading of Article 14, Chapter Three of the Trade Union law which states, that apart from those primary trade union committees, in factories, mines, and other establishments, which

are set up in accordance with Law, "no other organisations.... shall be entitled to the rights enjoyed by the primary trade union committees".

Secondly, both the Labour Movement and the Trade Unions are Communist dominated. This is acknowledged and even emphasized by official documents of the Chinese Peoples' Republic. The following passages are to the point :-

"Ever since its first days, it (the trade union movement) has developed under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The Communist Party of China, after it was founded on July 1, 1921, established the Chinese Trade Union Secretariat openly to lead the working-class movement of the country" (4).

"With the support of the State and under the leadership of the Communist Party, the trade unions of China have become a school of Communism for the workers, and are a strong social pillar of the peoples' democratic power" (5).

"In 1952 trade unions organisations in a relatively systematic way carried out Communist education among the workers" (6).

In the Preamble of the Constitution of the Trade Unions we read : "The Trade Unions of China have rallied the masses of the workers around the Communist Party of China, and have thus become transmission belts between the Party and the masses. After the establishment of the peoples' democratic dictator-

ship the trade unions under the leadership of the Party have become a school of administration, a school of management and a school of Communism for the workers" (7). In passing it may be mentioned that it is not a little difficult, for peoples of the free countries, to conceive any organisation as being a "democratic dictatorship", whatever it may mean in Communist terminology!

According to the Directives on developing spare-time education for the workers and staff members of industrial establishments, issued by the Government Administration Council of the Central Peoples's Government on June 1, 1950, we read: "In large factories and enterprises spare-time political classes may be established for these workers and staff members who have a certain educational level, in order to give them a systematic education of political theory and to train them as functionaries with the preliminary understanding of Marxist theory" (8).

Thirdly, there is no mention in any of these official documents of the right to strike, the most cherished right of all free workers in all free countries. Nor is there any mention of any procedure to deal with labour grievances.

Fourthly, it is no secret that the All-China Federation of Trade Unions is affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions which is Communist dominated, and from which all free trade unions have broken away.

How do the Chinese Trade Unions work in actual practice ?

The question is exceedingly hard to answer. As we have already noted, it is extremely difficult to obtain an unprejudiced view on conditions which obtain in all totalitarian States.

The following quotations, taken from Mr. Brajkishore Shastri, who is neither a Capitalist nor a Communist, are given from his little book, "From My China Diary".

With other Indian delegates he assisted at the All-China Congress of Trade Unions on May 2nd, 1953, and presents a picture of the very close link up between the Trade Unions and the Chinese Communist Party. He writes: The most notable speeches at the conference were made by Liu Shao-chi, the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, and Lei Jo-yu, the present Chairman and former general secretary of the All-China Congress of Trade Unions. Outsiders like ourselves being unused to such spectacles were puzzled at the complete confusion of roles of the Chinese Communist Party and the All-Chinese Federation of Trade Unions. From their proceedings nobody could make out which was which. Every speaker at this meeting made a point to praise the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao. There was not even a trace of difference of opinion on any subject under discussion" (p. 22).

Again on page 23 he writes: "I am referring to these two speeches to suggest that there is no distinc-

tion whatsoever between the Chinese Government and the so-called Chinese labour movement. The All-China Federation of Trade Unions which was formerly known as All-China Federation of Labour is a new version of the labour department of the Chinese Government. In section 3 of the Trade Union Law of China, it has been clearly laid down that no trade union would be recognised by Government unless it was affiliated to the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. Section 9 of the same Law lays down the duties of the trade unionists. This includes, among other things, the responsibility to 'educate' the workers that obedience to law and executive orders are enforced without difficulty. The work which was formerly done by the labour department of the Chinese Government has been entrusted to the All-China Federation of Trade Unions." (p. 23).

In conclusion, this is what Mr. Shastri writes on the subject on trade union unity. "In Shanghai, however, we did have an occasion to discuss frankly the question of trade union unity. I pointed to the address of the secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party at the plenary session of the All-China Labour Federation. In that address the secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party had unambiguously declared that it was impossible for the trade union movement to succeed unless it accepted the leadership of a political party. He had proudly supplement this declaration by a reference to the Chinese trade union movement. It was, he said, only after it had come under the direct leadership of the Chinese Communist Party that the trade union

movement in China made notable progress. I had this in mind when I told my friend if we were to accept the same pattern of trade union activity in India then we too would have to subordinate ourselves to a political party. In India there were many political parties. It was, therefore, impossible that anybody who subscribed to the views of the secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party should be sincere in his profession for trade union unity. My friend had no answer to this. I could see that behind today's move were the self-same people" (p. 46, 47).

References :-

- (1) Trade Unions in Peoples' China. Peking, 1956, p. 7
- (2) Ibid. pp. 8, 9.
- (3) Ibid. p. 16.
- (4) Ibid. p. 7.
- (5) Ibid. p. 25.
- (6) Ibid. p. 28.
- (7) Labour Laws & Regulations of the People's Republic of China, Peking, 1956, pp. 16, 17.
- (8) Ibid. p. 84.

C. C. Clump

A History of Case-work

Often enough it is taken for granted that social case-work is a discovery or an invention of the U.S.A. which in course of time was transplanted to Europe and spread all over the world. Its history, however, is not so simple, and Madame J. Tuerlinck (¹) has put us in her debt in tracing it back to its origins in the Europe of the XVIth century. She might possibly have gone further back and found initial elements in older charitable institutions, but she soberly retained only the names of four Europeans, Vives, St. Vincent de Paul, Ranford, and Chalmers, who exercised a direct influence on the development of the case-work movement.

Vives

The first is Juan Luis Vives (1492—1540), a child of sunny Valencia who had the good fortune of blossoming out under the cloudy skies of Belgium and England. When he was seventeen years old, an epidemic in Valencia sent him to Beauvais and Paris, from where he migrated to Bruges. He became professor in the University of Louvain, and then of Oxford. In the course of his five years in England, he was chosen as adviser of Henry VIII and tutor of Princess Mary. A genuine Catholic, he opposed the marriage of the King with Anne Boleyn, and had to seek refuge in Bruges where he married, and died at the age of 47.

(¹) Cf. *Social Casework*, Brussels. 1953.

He was a man of many parts, philosopher, pedagogue, publicist. He was a precursor of Bacon, thanks to his insistence on the inductive method which characterizes natural sciences. He was an initiator of modern psychology, because he separated the psychological fact from the speculative, theological and physical, and applied the descriptive method to the study of consciousness, though he stressed the primacy of the spiritual soul. In pedagogy he is ranked above Comenius and Ratke. He based his system on psychology and ethics, and brought out the significance of perceptible intuitions which Pestalozzi put to good use. At the source of his pedagogy, there lay an authentic love of the humble and the poor; his sense of humanity and his educative talent were appealed to by the cities of Bruges and Ypres which entrusted him with the task of organising public assistance. There he could translate into practice the principles he had enunciated in his book "*De subventionem pauperum sive de humanis necessitatibus*", published at Bruges in 1526. His principles centred round four points: (a) the right of individuals to effective and organised assistance; (b) enquiry of the case leading to a diagnostic; (c) individualised treatment; (d) measures that were not only palliative and curative but also preventative. These were the main features; they are basic in our modern case-work: accepting the case as it is, dealing with it as unique, establishing a preliminary diagnostic, applying individual treatment which a view to rehabilitation.

The preference of Vives went to children, particularly to children that were physically handicapped,

blind, mentally deficient, crippled, delinquent. Thus his person and his work stood out in glaring contrast with the background of the Renaissance which was engrossed on health, beauty and comfort. His books and publications spread his ideas throughout the countries of Europe, and later penetrated into America.

St. Vincent de Paul

Another apostle of charity succeeded Vives, St. Vincent de Paul (1581—1660). Vincent de Paul had experienced what human misery can be when soon after his ordination at the age of nineteen he was captured by Tunisian pirates and sold into slavery. He had no sooner regained his freedom than he directed his pastoral ministry to the poor he found in the French countryside and the Paris slums. He established two religious orders, one for men and one for women, that would continue his charitable works on a permanent basis, and he mobilised the goodwill of the laity for the service of the poor. Orphanages, homes for the aged, work-houses, refuges, etc, he had a work for every type of misfortune he met in his ceaseless quest for the unfortunate. He too stressed the need of individual attention; "one cannot aid a man efficiently," he used to say, "unless a good relationship was first established". Later social workers would scientifically study that matter of relationship between worker and client, but the point was already clear in the mind of Vincent de Paul. It was with a view to secure such relationship that he founded his order of nuns, the Daughters of Charity, whose religious inspiration would spread throughout the world

that motherly sense so well in keeping with the Vincentian spirit.

Rumford

Rumford, (1753 — 1814) whom the Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences omits to mention and whom Madame Tuerlinck misspells into Ranford, was born Benjamin Thompson, at Woburn (Mass.). He was bred into the Yankee tradition, ran away to England, went back as administrator of Georgia and made a timely exit in 1783. He was later an officer of the Austrian army fighting against the Turks and finally minister of Prince Maximilian at Munich. As versatile in his talents as in his loyalties, he proved at his best in sciences, particularly in his studies of heat. Knighted as Count of the Holy Roman Empire (under the title Rumford), he was the founder and first recipient of the Rumford medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was the first to hold the Rumford professorship at Harvard University.

When at Munich he showed his initiative and originality as a social worker. One night he arrested 2600 beggars, but instead of simply throwing them into jail, he directed them to an industrial concern he had established, and set them to work to earn a living. His idea was novel at the time and can be summarised in his own words: "To make vicious and abandoned people happy, it is generally supposed necessary to make them virtuous. But why not reverse this order? Why not make them happy and then virtuous?" Such was Rumford's policy of serving the community, and

his way of reconciling the poor and the municipality of Munich.

Chalmers

It is customary to add the name of Thomas Chalmers (1780 — 1847) among the pioneers of case-work. As he worked hard to establish the Free Church of Scotland against state-patronage, so he worked in favour of private agencies against "public" assistance. He was a voluminous writer as his 38 volumes prove sufficiently and a good organiser of charitable works. More to the point, one can single out his principle: "Every man has all the resources necessary to help himself", which is a basic concept in case-work.

In short, from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, we observe that, each in his country, Vives, St. Vincent de Paul, Rumford and Chalmers, had common tenets which are found in modern case-work: individualisation of cases, problems and treatments; possibilities of rehabilitating men; importance of the relation between worker and client. Not that there was no development of their ideas and methods, but they were the pioneers of a movement which was to spread and to improve, thanks to scientific studies and observations.

Among the most original initiatives, the Elberfeld system deserves special mention. The municipality of this Rhineland town took over the charitable works of the Church, and gave them a systematic organisation which reached its final stage with Daniel Von der Heydt, Davis Peters and Gustav Schlieper (1853). Only real destitutes were to be cared for, they had to be

visited at home at frequent intervals, the relief had not to go beyond the necessities of life, and all the recipients were supposed to take up some work or other. There was to be an almoner per four cases so that education and rehabilitation could be individualised. It is to be noted that the social movement on the European continent was canalised towards legislation and social insurance rather than towards individual assistance.

This movement differed from the trend commanded by the "Charity Organisation Societies" which flourished in England and were transplanted in the U. S. A. (1870). The first C.O.S. was founded in London in 1869 by Octavia Hill, Denison and Ch. S. Loch. With Octavia Hill, investigation became the keystone of individual service, and assistance other than money relief was emphasized. "Not alms, but a friend", was the motto of Octavia Hill. It was in Boston, which had already felt the influence of St. Vincent de Paul, that the first Charity Organisation Society was founded in the U. S. A. and spread throughout the country.

In the U. S. A.

It is usually said that characteristic features of American economy and society favoured the development of case-work: pioneering spirit in economic ventures, sense of free enterprise, mood of individual freedom, educational system, work of children's courts, stress on scientific methods, craving for exploring new avenues in all directions, boldness in facing risks,

craving for continuous progress, tempo of life, all circumstances shunted American charity along the line of an individualisation which occasionally is apt to discountenance peoples seeking comfort in restful traditions. Among American pioneers one should retain the name of Miss Mary Richmond who expounded her theory in "Social Diagnosis" (1917). Her previous association with an "agency" which had been largely influenced by the English C. O. S., had centred her attention on the investigation of individual cases and on the need of the worker-client relationship (she was the first to use the word "client"). At that time psychology was in full development, and the systematic use of psychological tests (especially the famous "I.Q.") by the army authorities on the new recruits further centred case-work on the mental diagnostic of individuals. The trend was pushed further with the progress of psychiatry from 1925 onwards: the campaign of Clifford Bears for Mental Hygiene became popular; study of individual behaviour, classification of mental deficiencies, study of child deviations, and the inter-human relations were taken in turn and studied with all the resources available in laboratories. Delicate problems like the mutual relations and inter-reactions of case-worker and client brought out many conclusions most precious in the practical activities of social services.

From 1940 a synthesis was attempted thanks to a mass of data taken from sociology, psychology and psychiatry. The individual appeared more clearly than ever as a unique personality which is to be analysed and judged in the light of his biology, heredity in-

fluenced by his civilization, culture, by the ethics and spiritual life he has been imbibing, by the social and economic circumstances in which he lived and lives, and finally by his own reactions and decisions in his environment and experience. Each individual has his complex, which in some way is always unique.

One could expect that with studies, results and conclusions gathered from a host of research students, the total picture of case-work would look like a maze or a Chinese puzzle and that the definition of case-work would not meet a desirable unanimity. In fact, Rev. Swithun Bowers has listed as many as thirty-four such definitions; as he felt that this would lead to confusion and that he too could profit by the climate of free enterprise, he added his own which runs as follows:

"Social case-work is an art in which the knowledge of the science of human relations and skill in relationship are used to mobilize capacities in the individual and resources in the community appropriate for better adjustment between the client and all or any part of his total environment" (*Journal of Social Case-work*, 1949).

Vives would have read such a definition with pleasure.

A. Lallemand.

An Election Survey

(As the Elections are over, we offer our readers a brief and objective survey of the results, leaving them to draw their own conclusions.—Edit.)

Lok Sabha

The Congress Party has not only gained control of the Lok Sabha but has also improved its position. In the present elections it has polled more votes and won more seats than in 1951 in spite of the stiff opposition in several States. Of the 488 seats declared — elections for four seats in Himachal Pradesh and two seats for Kangra will be held in May while the six members for Kashmir are indirectly elected — Congress has won 336. Out of the 114,490,574 votes cast, Congress won 54,056,646 i.e. 46.5 per cent. In 1951 out of the 105,531,440 votes cast, Congress had won 47,446,170 which was 45.0 per cent of the votes. Congress fared badly in Kerala, Orissa, West Bengal and certain parts of Bombay but did extremely well in Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Punjab, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. The main opposition came from Communists and the disgruntled linguists of Bombay State. Quite a few prominent members of the Lok Sabha lost the battle of the ballot box.

The Communists too have made great headway ; they have almost doubled their votes. In 1951 they had polled 5,299,095 (5.0 per cent), contested 69 seats and won 26. In the present elections they secured 11,447,345 votes and won 29 out of the 115 seats they had contested. In Kerala out of the 18 seats allotted

to the State the Communists won 9. In Bengal they did well though not as well as everybody had expected them to do.

All other parties have lost ground. The P. S. P. secured this time only 10.0 per cent of the votes whereas in the last elections they had secured 16.4 per cent. Their misfortune is partially owing to the loss of the Lohia group. The extreme right parties like the Mahasabha have suffered a crushing defeat. As usual there were a very large number of Independents in the field. Most of them have helped the Government to defray part of the expenses incurred for the elections by losing their deposits.

The opposition will have 122 members. The Communists with 29 seats and with the assistance of a few Communist sponsored Independents will dominate the Opposition. With the able support from Comrade Dange, one of India's top Communists, Comrade Gopalan can be relied upon to fight the battles on behalf of the "Democratic Front".

The States

Kerala, the smallest State (15,000 sq. miles) has, thanks to the astounding victory of the Communists, attained international fame. Hitherto it was the name of an illustrious son of Kerala, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, which had become a household word the world over but from now on the State of Kerala itself will hold the attention of mankind. There is jubiliation in the Red World over the victory but much anxiety among the lovers of true democracy.

The Communists have polled about 130 per cent more votes this time than in the previous elections in Kerala. This is the third time elections have been held in the State. Since the reorganisation of States the boundaries of Kerala have been changed. A small area in the South has been cut off and added on to the State of Madras but the loss has been amply compensated for by the addition of the whole district of Malabar and a taluka of South Kanara.

The Congress Party contested 124 seats for the 126 member State assembly but won only 43. It polled 2,256,712 votes out of the total of 5,907,802 votes cast which works out at 38.2 per cent. During the previous election the percentage was 42.3 but the electorate was smaller. Disunity, corruption, ambition, complacency and lack of organisation are some of the causes for the downfall of the Congress Party.

The Communists who had secured 922,539 votes out of the total of 5,271,663 votes in the last election i.e. 17.5 per cent, won in the present election 2,156,012 out of the total votes cast which gives them a percentage of 36.5. While the Congress which contested 124 seats and won a bare 43 the Reds contested 100 and won 60. Five Independents who were actively supported by the Communist Party should be, for all practical purposes, counted among the Reds. In fact with their help the Party is able to control the Assembly. 70 per cent of the electorate exercised its franchise, probably the highest poll in any State. The Revolutionary Socialist Party has been wiped out while the Praja Socialist Party has been crippled. The

P.S.P. has a strength of just nine. In the previous Assembly there were 18 members owing allegiance to the Party. The addition of Malabar to the State has brought in a new party, the Muslim League which has won 8 seats. Of the 45 Independents who tried their luck 27 lost their deposits and all but six were defeated. Out of the six, five were Communist supported.

The Communist were successful in all parts of the State including even Christian strongholds like Trichur and Kottayam.

April 5th is a truly Red Letter day in the history of Kerala for on that day for the first time in the history of the entire world a Communist Government took over the administration through a genuinely democratic process. The Reds have publicly stated that they will be faithful to the Constitution and stick to the democratic process. But it is a notorious fact that when a Communist uses a common word he gives to it a meaning which is not always the accepted one.

West Bengal

The situation in West Bengal does not leave much room for complacency. The Communist Party has once again emerged as the second largest party having secured 46 seats. It contested 103, secured 1,803,500 (17.4 per cent), an increase of 1,105,930 over the number of votes it had won in 1952. In that year it had contested 84 seats, had secured 790,570 or 10.8 per cent and won 28 seats. The Reds did extremely well in and around Calcutta. But for the land reforms, recently introduced, which have brought much relief

to farmers, and the dominant personality of West Bengal's Chief Minister, Dr. B. C. Roy, the Communists would have done even better.

The Congress too has done well. It secured 4,734,305 votes, representing an increase of 1,828,578 or nearly 63 per cent over the polling five years ago. It must be remarked, however, that this year the number of persons who exercised their franchise was 10,361,201 as against 7,372,807 in 1952. With the additions of certain areas of Bihar the State has become bigger and the Assembly has four more elective seats. The Congress contested 251 seats for the 252 member Assembly and won 152. Even if all the non-Congress members occupy the Opposition Benches the Congress will still have a clean majority of 53.

A most remarkable thing about the Elections in West Bengal is the complete elimination of two well known parties, the Hindu Mahasabha and the Jan Sangh. In the 1952 elections the former had returned four members and the latter eight but in the present elections they lost every one of the 70 seats they had contested between them.

The P. S. P. which has won 21 seats out of the 67 contested has more or less maintained its position. It polled 9.8 per cent of the votes cast as against 11.4 in 1952. The loss may be owing to the Lohia schism and the increase in the electorate.

In West Bengal the Leftists, especially the Communists, are concentrating on industrial labour. With

the development of the D. V. C. scheme the State is becoming more and more industrialized. In the northern districts there is a very large population of plantation labour and the Reds are very active here. It needs no prophetic vision to see that in the next elections the C. P. I. will do still better. Will it do as well as the Kerala branch of the Party ?

Assam

The Congress once again has gained control of the House in spite of the fact that it has failed to win a single seat, with the exception of one in the Mikir and North Cachar Hills, in the Hill districts of Assam. The Tribals have rejected Congress. Congress however polled 1,394,372 of the total of 2,463,462 votes. In the last election in 1951 it had secured 43.9 per cent of the votes cast but this time the percentage rose to 56.6.

The Communists have done very well here too. Whereas they had obtained a mere 69,431 (2.8 per cent) votes in 1951 this time they secured 244,437 or 9.9 per cent. Both Congress and Communists have benefited at the expense of the P. S. P. whose vote has been reduced from 19.1 per cent to 10.1 per cent.

Assam has a very large force of plantation labour. Who is behind the Naga rebellion ?

Uttar Pradesh

The Congress has lost ground having polled this time only 42.7 per cent of the total votes cast as against the 47.93 per cent in 1951. It has, however, obtained an absolute majority by securing 286 of the 430 seats.

The P. S. P. too has suffered. In the 1951 elections it had obtained 17.82 per cent of the votes but in the present elections the percentage has come down to 14.4. Here again the loss is due to the Lohia group breaking away. The P. S. P. however is the second largest Party in the Assembly. It has 44 seats. Here too the Communists have done relatively well. In 1951 they had been given 155,869 votes (0.93 per cent) but in the present elections their poll has gone up to 842,989 or 3.9 per cent, an increase of nearly 400 per cent. In 1951 they had put up 43 candidates 40 of whom had lost their deposits. This time they had 90 candidates of whom 9 were successful.

In Uttar Pradesh too the Hindu Mahasabha has been annihilated. The Ram Raja Parishad likewise has failed to secure a single seat.

Out of the 34,774,434 persons entitled to vote 22,746,190 exercised their franchise. The votes cast for the Congress Party amounted to 9,391,481.

Punjab and Rajasthan

In both these States the Congress Party has secured absolute majorities improving their position considerably since the last elections. In the Punjab the Congress Party won 118 of the 152 seats, polled 3,531,027 votes out of the 7,714,951 or 46 per cent. In the 1951 elections the Congress vote was only 38.86 per cent.

In Rajasthan out of the 4,953,795 votes cast the Congress secured 2,201,386 or 44 per cent as against

39.8 per cent in the last elections. Whereas in the previous elections only about 30 per cent of the electorate had exercised its franchise in the present one over 57 per cent went to the polls.

The main opposition has come from the Communists and the extreme right parties. In both States the Communists have done extremely well. In the Punjab during the last elections they had polled about 400,000 votes or 6.18 per cent but in the present election 1,093,506 votes were cast in their favour which gives them a percentage of 14.2 per cent of the total. They have won 6 seats.

In Rajasthan they secured 140,502 or 2.8 per cent as against 20,675 or 0.6 per cent in the last elections but won only one seat. It might be interesting to know that in the first elections Kerala had not returned a single Communist. The first Communist had got in through a bye-election.

The Jan Sangh in the Punjab and the Ram Raja Parishad in Rajasthan improved their position. The Praja Socialists have suffered serious loss. It looks as if the Communists are going to supplant the P. S. P.

Andhra

Only a portion of Andhra Pradesh, namely Telengana went to the polls. In the rest of the State elections were held in 1955. Telengana was once the stronghold of the Reds but today their grip on it has been effectively loosened. In the present elections they have actually lost ground having reduced their percentage

from 31.2 to 25.6. They secured 941,309 votes of the total of 3,688,764 as against 971,677 out of 3,186,732 in the 1951 poll.

For the elections to the Lok Sabha from the entire State though they were given 2,228,331 votes, they won only four out of the 18 seats they had contested.

In the 301 member State Assembly there will be 215 Congress, 36 Communists, 2 P. S. P. and 48 others.

Madhya Pradesh

Congress has won a landslide victory in this State. Out of the 287 seats in the Assembly the Congress has won 231. Out of the 7,482,720 votes cast in the elections the Congress obtained 3,603,778 or 47.9 per cent. The P. S. P. and the Ram Raja Parishad have lost ground while the Jan Sangh and Communists have registered significant gains. The Communists who had collected only 44,286 votes or 0.6 per cent in 1951 have bettered their position by polling 110,822 or 1.5 per cent. They have gained a secure foothold in the industrial cities of Indore and Gwalior.

Mysore

In Mysore also the Congress has won a thumping victory. Out of the 207 seats contested it has won 150 in a House containing 208 elective members. The number of votes polled have not increased appreciably — 50.9 per cent in 1957 as against 49.0 per cent in 1951. The Right wing parties have practically disappeared from the scene. The Communists are still not very

significant but they have definitely improved their position. They have polled 123,403 votes or 1.9 per cent as against 67,390 or 1.3 per cent previous elections. Only one out of the 20 who tried succeeded in winning a seat.

Madras

Madras is the only State where Communists have lost ground. Their vote has dropped from 909,002 to 865,941 or from 10.0 per cent to 7.0 per cent. They contested 53 seats but won just four. The Congress Party on the other hand has improved its position considerably by winning 151 out of the 205 seats. Out of the 11,636,902 votes cast the Party secured 4,913,375 or 42 per cent as against 35.5 per cent in the 1951 elections. The P. S. P. fared very badly. Its percentage was reduced from 12.0 to 2.3.

Bombay

The Congress has succeeded in getting an absolute majority thanks to the solid support it received from the newly acquired areas of Marathawada (former Hyderabad State), Vidarbha and Kutch. Certain districts of Gujerat and practically the whole of Maharashtra voted overwhelmingly against the Congress. The Samyukta Maharashtra won 100 out of the 134 seats in Maharashtra proper. Though professedly what united the various parties under the banner of the Samiti was the people's desire for an unilingual state, as a matter of fact the real drive came from a hatred of the Congress Party. The Communist made skillful use of the Samiti to further their own cause and succeeded.

remarkably well. They have gained considerable ground in both Maharashtra and Vidarbha though they have lost somewhat in Marathawada. The Communists are now likely to concentrate on capturing the Peasants and Workers Party and the Scheduled Caste Federation which are members of the Samiti. The Reds will press for the creation of a Marathi speaking State. If they succeed they will be able to turn the new State into another Kerala.

In a House of 396 seats the Congress has captured 233 securing 7,897,050 out of the 16,355,603 votes or 48.2 per cent. In 1951 the Congress had polled 52.8 per cent of the votes cast. The P. S. P. which had polled 2,127,940 votes in 1951 got only 1,507,040 or 9.1 per cent as against 15.0 per cent. The Communists, however, have doubled their poll. 762,732 votes were cast in their favour in the present elections as against 362,832 in the previous one. Their percentage has gone up from 2.8 to 4.7. They have returned 18 members to the Assembly and all of them from the Marathi area.

Bihar

The Congress Party has been returned to power but with a weakened majority. Some of the leaders, including ministers, lost the battle of the ballot box. The percentage of votes polled by the Congress is 43.1 as against 42.1 in the 1951 elections. The two parties which have improved their position considerably are the Janata and the Communist. The Janata Party is controlled by the Raja of Ramgarh. It seems to have no particular politics except personal feuds and its future is rather doubtful. Ideologically there is nothing in it to divide it from the Congress.

In the present elections 10,333,444 persons exercised their franchise. Of these votes Congress won 4,455,881 and secured 210 seats of the 318 in the Assembly. The P.S.P. has lost ground but this is due to the formation of the new Socialist Party, which is an offshoot of the parent body. Between them they have 33 seats.

In the a last elections the Communists had polled 99,819 votes. But this time they have five times as many, 571,237 that is from 1.1 per cent to 5.5 per cent. They have won 7 seats in the State Assembly. In the last one they had none.

The Jharkand Party still holds sway over the Chotanagpur plateau except Hazaribagh district which has been snatched away from them by the Janata Party.

Out of the nearly 193,000,000 entitled to vote in India only about half the number exercised their franchise. 494 seats to the Lok Sabha and 2906 to the 13 State Assemblies had to be filled in. The Election Commission had to print about 510,000,000 ballot papers, procure 2,960,000 steel ballot-boxes, set up over 200,000 polling booths and employ a million men to supervise the elections. Except in one or two isolated cases the elections went off in an orderly and peaceful manner. 1580 candidates were in the field for the 484 parliamentary seats and seven times that number for the State Assemblies.

The final figures are as follows :

1957	No. Seats	Congress	Communists	P. S. P.	Other Parties
Andhra ..	301	215	36	28	48
Assam ..	108	71	4	8	25
Bihar ..	318	210	7	31	70
Bombay ..	396	232	18	36	106*
Kerala ..	126	43	60	9	14
Madhya Pr. ..	288	232	2	12	42
Madras ..	205	151	4	2	48
Mysore ..	208	150	2	18	38
Orissa ..	140	56	9	11	64
Punjab ..	154	120	6	1	27
Rajasthan ..	176	119	1	1	55
Uttar Pr. ..	430	286	9	44	91
West Bengal	252	152	46	21	33
Lok Sabha ..	488	366	29	18	75*

* N.B. For the Lok Sabha and Bombay the figures are not complete as some seats are still to be filled in.

Social Activity

Social Service and Labour Relations

On Saturday, April 6th, at St. Xavier's College, Bombay, diplomas and certificates were distributed to successful students of the Course in Social Service and Labour Relations. The Course in Social Service — a two year part-time course — is meant to train suitable candidates for social work. The Course is both theoretical and practical. Besides a knowledge of the philosophy of social service and the psychological approach to social problems, the students have to undergo training in the skills and techniques of case work and community organisation through their attendance at two camps, one in a rural and the other in an urban area, and actual practice in social work agencies under trained supervisors. About 20 students in all were awarded the diplomas in social service. These diplomas should entitle them to such employment where trained social workers are required. They can easily satisfy the demand for trained social workers in the lower cadre of the profession and with experience rise to higher positions. The diploma however is still under consideration of recognition by the Union Government, but in a statement issued some months ago the Government had already expressed the opinion that the teaching was satisfactory and good work was being done in the sphere of training social workers. There can be no doubt that a course of this kind caters to the needs of the Welfare State that is being built up in India. Moreover, since there are quite a number of social service institutions under the auspices of Catholic

agencies, and Government is insistent on adequately trained personnel to staff every kind of social service institution, it is becoming increasingly necessary that facilities for such training should be made available and the Course in Social Service at St. Xavier's is meant to fulfil that purpose. With time and experience, the Course can raise its standards of teaching and expand its activities.

The Course in Labour Relations is meant exclusively for acquainting trade union officials and potential labour leaders with a knowledge of the meaning and objectives of sound trade unionism, of the significance of the trade union in an industrial society, of their own responsibilities towards the union, its members, and the community. About 31 in all were awarded certificates. Trade union officials are busy men and for many of them it was a real sacrifice to attend the lectures. But the new ideas of co-operation within industry, collective bargaining, their privileges and obligations as union officials and members, their demands for just wages and decent living standards, the welfare activities of the union, all these gradually sink deep into their minds and will help to guide them in their conduct of the unions and their relations with management.

This Course is not intended to produce Labour or Welfare Officers, but to help build a strong, free, united and democratic trade union movement in the country by providing the trade unions with responsible leaders and officials. This is becoming all the more important because of the rapid industrialisation of the country,

and the need of an enlightened labour force to co-operate intelligently in the national effort. If however Government implements the recommendations contained in the report of the team on Workers' Education that was especially appointed to examine and make suggestions on the situation, the College authorities will have to fall in line with the new regulations. The Course may have to be slightly modified as to the methods of teaching, but for the rest there is not likely to be much change.

Workers' Education

The Central Government in conjunction with the Ford Foundation recently set up a team of specialists to investigate the possibilities of starting a Workers' Education programme all over the country. The content of the programme was restricted to specific instruction in trade union philosophy and methods and workers participation in management. It is gratifying to note that Catholic colleges and institutions conducting labour courses were among the very few agencies that have so far interested themselves in the problem and attempted to satisfy the need. This induced the Government to invite a member of the Social Institute of Poona to participate in the work of the team and both in Madras and in Jamshedpur the Directors of the Madras School of Social Work and the Xavier Institute of Labour Relations were specially interviewed by the team. The team has completed its labours and handed in its report to the Minister of Labour. One of the important recommendations is that maximum use should be made of existing institutions for imparting the prescribed instruction to workers. Our

Colleges and institutions would be doing the country and the trade union movement a great benefit by offering the facilities of their building and staff for the speedy and effective implementation of the new scheme. Very much depends on the success of the programme for the formation of a free, united strong and democratic trade union movement in the country.

Housing Co-operatives

Housing Co-operatives are assuming great importance especially in our cities where accommodation is hard to find and rents in many cases excessive. In Poona, the Poona Diocesan Co-operative Housing Society has recently been formed to provide people with tenements on a Co-Partnership Tenancy basis. The Society owns the land and the buildings, while the tenants are the co-partners. The Society will look after the maintenance and the repairs. Each tenant member will contribute towards the share capital of the Society according to the value of the flat, the tenant member being at full liberty to pay either the full cost in advance, or part payment of the cost.

What will be the Government's contribution towards the scheme? For the low income group whose pay does not exceed Rs. 500 per month, Government will advance up to 70% of the cost. This amount will have to be repaid in 20 years time with interest thereon at 5½% per annum. For incomes above Rs. 500 a month, Government will advance 60% of the cost, which will have to be repaid in 20 years' time with interest thereon at 6%.

Each flat will consist of two rooms with a total carpet area of 240 sq. ft., plus a kitchen with a water tap. The entire building will consist of a ground floor and three upper floors. In each floor there will be ten flats, and six water flushed W.Cs. Each room will be electrically lighted.

Each flat is estimated to cost about Rs. 3000. The monthly payment of each co-partnership tenant will be Rs. 26/-. The minimum initial contribution of each co-partnership tenant for each flat will be Rs. 1000/-. After 20 years the payment to Government will cease and the monthly payment will be reduced to Rs. 12/- only.

The foundation stone of the building has already been laid and the ground floor is making its appearance. The advantage of this kind of Co-operative Housing scheme is that it caters to the pockets of the lowest income groups in our cities, and tenants who fail to pay their rents can be removed from their flats by an order of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the district, thus avoiding all process of law.

Credit Co-operatives

Both in Calcutta and in Bettiah credit co-operatives are making successful headway in easing the strain on the purses of those who need loans for urgent purposes and in unforeseen circumstances. However Consumer co-operatives are having a rough time in Bombay and in Ahmedabad because their staff are not sufficiently trained in business and their members not loyal enough to the society.

But there seems to be a general desire for co-operatives of all kinds among the Catholic community. An awareness of their importance and usefulness is gradually growing among the people, despite many failures.

Social Conferences and Seminars

In Malabar, a Catholic Social Conference is being planned for the month of May. No doubt the causes of the recent Communist victory at the polls will be discussed. In Madura a special Seminar for nuns is being organised by the sisters themselves. It is to be a Seminar on Social Work and the sisters will receive first hand information on the social approach and the techniques of scientific social procedure in treating individual cases.

A. Fonseca.

Documentation

THE BUSINESSMAN IN SOCIETY

(An address of Pope Pius XII to members of the Italian Confederation of Commerce).

Ten years ago, on February 16, 1946, your Italian General Confederation of Commerce was established by uniting the Commerce Association which, after the war ended, had been formed in central-southern Italy and in the northern regions.

The extent of the work accomplished by your Confederation is evidenced by documents which were kindly sent to Us, namely, the series of reports on the activity of your Confederation and the minutes of the different congresses and conventions held in the last ten years. They are eloquent proof of the important place held by your activity in the life of the nation.

Function of a Businessman

Nevertheless, often today the function of a businessman is not properly appreciated. His usefulness is doubted and an attempt is made to dispense with his services. There is suspicion that he may wish to make exaggerated profits out of his economic operation. You should have, of course, the greatest interest to find out whether such opinions are or are not well founded; whether perhaps here and there commerce uselessly prolongs and complicates the passage of goods from producer to consumer.

However this may be, now, as in all periods of history, a businessman exercises a specific function. He would be wrongly classified if we saw in him merely a mediator between producer and consumer. He is that, undoubtedly, and to that end he possesses priceless experience acquired not without difficulty and risks.

However, he is principally an inspirer in the economy, not only capable of assuring a proper distribution of merchandise, but furthermore of effectively inciting a producer to supply objects of better quality and at lower price, and of making possible for consumers access to the market in the largest measure.

Each exchange of products, in fact, not only satisfies determined needs or desires but makes possible the use of new methods, creates latent and sometimes unexpected energies, and stimulates the spirit of enterprise and of invention. This instinct, innate in man, to create, to improve and to progress, explains commercial activity as much, even more than does the simple desire for gain.

A businessman needs a careful and well-planned professional training. He needs a mind always alert to understand and follow economic trends, in order to transact business with success, to foresee people's reactions as well as their psychology, both of which at times have such great bearing upon the play of exchange.

Strong moral qualities are no less indispensable: courage in times of crisis, perseverance in overcoming apathy and lack of understanding, willingness to try new formulae and methods of operation, to grasp and make the utmost use of all opportunities for good success. You thus deserve the esteem and consideration of everyone by putting these qualities at the service of the national community.

Danger of Regimentation

To operate successfully, a businessman needs to find an open field where too complicated or restrictive regulations shall not halt his progress. He hopes to face an honourable competition, operating under the same conditions as those in which he finds himself and one that shall not have un-

justifiable privileges. At the same time he ventures to hope that too numerous and heavy taxes will not deprive him of an excessive part of the gains deserved.

Undoubtedly, now more than in the past, there exists a desire to assure to all social classes such guarantees as shall spare them from undue economic hardships and from situations related to the fluctuations of the economy — guarantees that shall protect employment and salaries, that shall provide for sickness and disability which could reduce a worker to inaction and deprive him of the means of support. These are well justified solicitudes. In many cases the social-security system has not yet succeeded in ending painful economic conditions and in healing wounds which still remain open.

It is important, however, that the anxious desire for security on the part of the worker should not discourage the businessman's readiness to risk his resources so as to dry up his every creative impulse; not impose on enterprise operating conditions that are too burdensome; not discourage those who devote their time and energy to commercial transactions. Unhappily, it is an all-too-human tendency to choose the line of least resistance, avoid obligations and exempt oneself from the duty of self-reliance in order to fall back on the support of society and to live at the expense of one's fellows. These are the easy solutions in which the responsibility of the individual is reduced to a minimum in the shadow of the nameless multitude.

Self-reliance

If the businessman has his own interests to defend and promote; if he bears the responsibility for his own actions, he will deal with and solve these economic problems with greater zeal, greater ability and greater prudence. No one will deny the need for assurances, for a vigilance exercised

by the public authorities to the advantage of businessmen themselves, as well as the good of the people. Let us hope, however, that the State will remain within the limits of its function, which is that of complementing private enterprise, overseeing it and, if necessary, aiding it. Government should not substitute itself for private enterprise when the latter acts successfully and usefully. Between the two components of the economic movement, the forces of progress and the elements of organization, a balance must be maintained if we wish to avoid falling into anarchy or stagnation.

Since it is your business to represent in the national economy the moving impulse that stimulates and facilitates exchange, you may claim with every right the liberty necessary to fulfil your function genuinely and effectively. It should be your intention to make use of the freedom of action not only to serve your own private interests or those of a definite class of society but to promote the advantage of the whole country.

Professional Integrity

The businessman, in fact, is expected to possess an acknowledged professional conscience and integrity. Hand in hand with the weaknesses of human nature, temptations are not lacking to make use of procedures that are not too honest, to make illicit profits, to sacrifice moral dignity for material gains. This temptation is dangerous in a period in which the technical progress and the expansion of economy tend to strengthen the desire to increase to the utmost the quantity and variety of material possessions. This desire cannot be condemned as long as it remains balanced by an even stronger desire for spiritual progress, and by the will to promote in individuals as well as in social groups a true selflessness, and the solicitude to relieve the sufferings and wants of others.

Every man must be convinced that his destiny is not limited to procuring the most comfortable situation in this temporal life. One who is content with this ideal will be unable to find in himself sufficient energy to resist the ignoble impulses arising from his lower nature, from the example and inducements of those in whose midst he spends his life, and also, unfortunately, from the need of defending himself from similar conduct on the part of others.

Freedom from economic activity cannot be justified and endured save on the condition that it serve a higher liberty and be ready, if necessary, to renounce a part of itself in order not to fail superior moral demands. Otherwise it will be difficult to halt the progressive trend towards a type of society whose economic and political organization is itself the negation of every freedom.

Conclusion

We hope that each of the members of your associations may pride himself on exercising his profession not only for profit, but with the conscious feeling of fulfilling a function necessary and highly useful for the good of everyone. You have pointed out the difficult conditions which face you today, the obstacles which oppose the successful outcome of your undertakings, and the burdens which weigh heavily upon you. We well understand the reasons for such complaints. Nevertheless, we urge you, in the defence and protection of your interests to use a reasonable moderation which takes account of the general economic situation, and of the numerous and delicate factors which enter into the regulations of the social structure.

With the desire to put proper reforms into practice, you must show a constructive spirit, desirous of respecting all aspects of an economic and social reality which is very complex, without forgetting that which is essential — that is to

say, the permanent and essential values of the spiritual order which avoid all private aims and remain the only ones capable of assuring the salvation of modern civilization.

In moments of discouragement, and even more in moments of the highest success, do not lose sight of these considerations which—We like to hope—may always aid you to solve, happily and soundly, harassing problems both in the economic field and in the field of human relations. With such a wish and in the hope of more abundant divine favours, which We invoke upon you, your families and all members of your confederation, We impart to you with all Our heart, Our Apostolic Blessing.

The practical is a disagreeable, a mean and stony soil, but from that it is that all valuable theory comes.

O. W. Holmes.

BOOK REVIEWS

Economic and Industrial Life and Relations by M. K. Gandhi, compiled and edited by V. B. Kher, Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad, 1957, 3 volumes, pp. i—cxii & 755, price Rs. 8.

A study of Gandhiji's philosophy of life is always a difficult task because Gandhiji never set out to write an elaborate exposé of his ideas on life as a whole. One has therefore to resort to his various writings in letters, newspapers, and magazines, to discover the rich heritage that the Father of the nation has left his people. Mr. Kher has placed his readers in the enviable position of being deeply indebted to him for the signal service he has done them by laboriously and faithfully compiling the *ipsissima verba* of the great teacher and arranging them under selected headings.

Gandhiji was a deeply religious man; moreover he practised what he preached. He was singleminded and courageous enough to bring his religious principles to bear on the problems of the state and the market place. Religion for him covered all the aspects of life and therefore his dedication to the cause of the independence of India was part of his service of his fellowmen and of all humanity. This puzzling element in his life is brought out forcefully and explored by Mr. Kher in the long introduction to Volume I, which contains a brief summary of Gandhiji's ideas on Swaraj, Satyagraha, Manual Labour, Industrialism, Capitalism, Swadeshi and Khadi, Labour and the Strike.

Gandhiji's idealism in all his work sometimes misleads people into thinking that he was blindly against all modern forms of industrialism, and especially of the machine, which is the *raison d'être* of 20th Century industrialisation. Mr. Kher points out how there was a gradual evolution in the

mind of Gandhiji on the question of machinery. Gandhiji knew his people and their conditions and ways of living. He feared that every labour saving device would induce a spate of unemployment at least for the time being. He was also aware of the grievous evils from which the worker had suffered both in the West and the East, where the process of industrialisation had taken place. He wanted his people to view the machine as a servant and not as a master and use it accordingly. It was the abuse of the machine in the interests of the rich and the evils of exploitation that he condemned.

Gandhiji's attitude towards Swadeshi and Khadi was governed by the same high principles of service to the common man and the desire to provide him with the opportunities of living a self-sufficient life. It was never his intention to hurt other people, because they were foreigners. His creed was always one of love and non-violence. That is why he condemned the Communist ideology so strongly.

Similarly Gandhiji wanted decentralisation as far as possible. "That state is the best which governs least" was the slogan he preached. Perhaps he pitched his ideal too high when he argued for a classless society and the withering away of the state. But he had a great belief in the goodness of human nature, and placed much more emphasis on heart-conversion than legislation.

As for Capital and Labour, Gandhiji moved with both wings and was respected by all alike. He refused to accept an inevitable antagonism between the employer and the employee, wished them to treat each other as brothers in a common enterprise.

These are all very significant aspects of Gandhiji's total philosophy and in view of the rapid industrialisation pro-

gramme that the Government has embarked upon, it is worth while knowing how Gandhiji would have judged such activity. Moreover with advancing industrialisation, the difficulties endemic to such a process will have to be faced. In this context, Mr. Kher has done his readers an inestimable service in providing them with a careful compilation of Gandhiji's thinking on these industrial problems with which we are struggling today.

A. F.

TOO MANY OF US? by A. Nevett S.J., 2nd ed.

St. Paul Publications, Allahabad

1957, pp. 247 Price Rs. 3.25

We welcome the second edition of this very instructive and interesting book. The need for a second edition of TOO MANY OF US? shows that the extensive propaganda for birthcontrol as the only means to solve the population problem of the country, has not yet fully blind-folded healthy public opinion. Although time alone will convince the propagandists of birthcontrol that they have chosen the wrong road, Fr. Nevett's book will render immense service to all serious minded people who have the prosperity and greatness of their nation at heart but feel that the propagation of birthcontrol will gradually destroyed precisely what they have most at heart.

We hope that this second, revised and enlarged, edition will be accorded the same enthusiastic reception as the first. The author has not restricted himself to the consideration of the moral evil inherent in the practice of birthcontrol. On a scientific basis he challenges the arguments of the prophets of birthcontrol from the historical, medical and social point of view. In no way does he deny the seriousness of

the population problem for India; neither is he satisfied with criticising the wrong solution without indicating a better way out. He even admits that the solution he proposes will demand a greater effort, more courage and spirit of sacrifice from the nation but instead of ruining the physical, mental spiritual health of the country, as the practice of birthcontrol does, it will bring about the true happiness of the nation which is not secured by mere higher standards of living alone.

India should learn a lesson from other nations who have adopted the same escapist method of birthcontrol. The statistics given in the book make us realize how difficult it is for a country to reverse the course, once the "philosophy of cowardice which is the ideology of birthcontrol, has been accepted by the masses. Birthcontrol has sapped the life-energy of these nations, and now, although surrounded by plenty, they are in a dying condition.

H. V.

UNTERNEHMER UND OFFENTLICHE MEINUNG

(Employers and Public Opinion) by *Joseph Rast*. Publication of the Union of Christian Employers, Switzerland. 1956. Pp. 54.

This small booklet, primarily written for employers, has much to say to every person holding an influential position in public life. The main concern of the author is to make the employers realize their responsibility for the formation of public opinion in the nation. For this purpose, the author analyses the complicated process by which public opinion is formed in a country and in the world at large.... With concrete facts, as e.g. the recent wild enthusiasm for rock and roll, he illustrates the illogical and strongly emotional nature of this process and its tendency to work the

masses into a state of hysterics or plant an obsession into their minds.

In a very instructive study the author examines the interconnection of this rather modern phenomenon with the progress of technology. Technology has given those who wield strong economic or political power formidable instruments, like the radio, press, film T.V., theatre, etc., by which public opinion can be shaped at will.

Nobody has better understood the possibility of determining public opinion than the Communist States. The monopoly of news-agencies, radio, press, film, theatre, is creating, according to a well devised plan, the "will of the people" which is made to coincide with the will of the Party.. Sportsmen, actors, writers, filmstars and artists are but cog-wheels in this large machine producing public opinion. Persons who think independently are not wanted because they hinder the smooth running of this machine.

In modern democracies, too, public opinion is to a large extent shaped by powerful groups, as trade-unions and monopolized industries. These groups are not interested in men as persons; they study the "masses"; they want to know their tastes and instincts. Gallup, an organization which scientifically investigates public opinion in the U.S.A., spends every year 200 million dollars for this purpose. Beforehand the large monopolized industrial concerns and the big film companies are assured for the harmony between their production and public demand.

In modern life the masses are at the mercy of the powerful, even ideologically. A certain view of man is at the basis of this vast propaganda work which urges man to a high comfortable and materialist level of living. Gradually the masses are imbibing this hidden poison that finally alie-

nates them from their true selves. They cease to be persons who shape their own lives according to personal convictions and drift along with the current of public opinion.

The author makes an earnest appeal to Christian employers and other persons who hold positions of influence in public life to counteract the enormous influence of irresponsible individuals and groups who actually determine public opinion to the detriment of the real human greatness of the citizens of the nation. Instead of surrendering themselves to this devastating torrent, they should exert a common positive action, according to their position, based on a truly Christian conception of man.

H. V.

REPORT ON THE SOVIET UNION IN 1956—A Symposium of the Institute for the study of the U.S.S.R. (Conference at the Carnegie International Centre, New York, April 28-29, 1956). Pp. 218. Published in Munich, Germany.

This Symposium, as Jann Pennar, Counselor on Institute Relations, tells us in the Introduction, is a collection of articles based on reports that were delivered at a conference of the Institute held in New York in April, 1956. The Institute, itself, was organised in Munich, Germany. "It is a free corporation of scientists and men and women of letters who have left the Soviet Union and are now engaged in research on their homeland".

The Report covers a very wide selection of topics dealing with the U.S.S.R. The first session of the Conference deals with the Twentieth Communist Party Congress and Soviet agricultural and nationality problems. The second was

devoted to current developments in Soviet science, arts and literature. The third and last discusses Soviet policies in Asian and in international economics. Most of the speakers at the Conference have adopted a historical approach to their particular topic. "The symposium, however," writes Jaan Pennar, "should not be read with the sole purpose of finding an answer to the question of whether the USSR has made an about-face in 1956. Rather, the articles provide a background for an understanding of current Soviet policies and present to the reader an expert analysis of the events which have given rise to these policies. Thus the symposium should stimulate further discussion and thought on problems which are of general interest to all concerned with the Soviet Union today".

Underestimating the USSR

Mr. William Benton's discussion on "Some elements of strength and some of weakness" in the USSR helps the reader towards acquiring as correct a picture as possible of the present conditions in the Soviet Union. He shows how the USA, and perhaps, the non-Communist countries have underestimated Soviet science and technology; the USSR's economic progress and, lastly, the technical efficiency of Soviet leadership. While discussing the last issue, Mr. Benton makes a point which may come as a great surprise to people living in our so called Democracies. "Soviet society", he writes, "has been and is highly competitive for the individual.... This type of personal competition within the USSR, greatly intensified over anything we know in the US, to a point which literally involves life and death, has been the mother's milk of the present crop of Soviet officials...Not only have there been ample opportunities for the able, but there have been incentives. The able Soviet citizen is richly rewarded, relative to Soviet standards, even though such rewards make a mockery of socialism's original equalitarian ideas...However, the system of promotion is based upon a cruel demand

for performance. The manager who overfulfils the Plan is well paid and promoted. The manager who underfulfils faces the threat of prison or even of execution for sabotage."

Overestimating the USSR

Turning to American errors in overestimation of the links between the present Soviet Regime and its people, "If anything is plain", he writes, "in the dispatches from the Soviet Union, it is the widespread discontent among the people. How deep and how politically significant this is we cannot tell, but we know at least this, that the Soviet leaders have responded and are now responding to it, and that it is far from being assuaged".

The emergence of the New Soviet Youth is creating difficult problems for the Soviet rulers. Khrushchev referred to this problem, when before leaving for his visit to Britain he said "Recently some part of the youth has begun to show incorrect views on labour in our Soviet society. This is reflected, for example, in such facts: finishing ten years of school, young boys and girls say, it's not fitting that we, educated people, should go to the factory, to the building site, to the state or to the collective farm. Such educated people don't think that they live in a house built by building workers, that their fathers work in plants and factories, that they eat bread grown in state or collective farms by our Soviet people...It is hardly a secret that some parents think: 'They can't put my daughter, who's finished high school, to milking cows!' And rightly, Mr. Benton asks, "whether this new youth will be willing to put up with the needless hardship and exploitation suffered by the peasant masses of yesterday?"

Co-existence—a tactical manoeuvre.

It is not so long ago, that the world was stirred with hopes of world peace, when the Soviet leaders, during the Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist Party put for-

ward their theory of peaceful co-existence. But how far these Soviet assurances could be trusted have been amply proved by happenings in Hungary and Soviet penetration into the Middle East.

Mr. N. S. Lasovsky, in his analysis of the Twentieth Party Congress, ably shows, that, according to Soviet strategy, oppression of freedom in Hungary is quite consistent with their every proclamation of peaceful co-existence, and even of Panchilla! Of course, it is only the backward democratic peoples who still adhere to the outworn meaning of the term, peace!

"Both changes in Communist doctrine" writes, Mr. Lasovsky, "are, of course, only a tactical maneuver. The aim of this manoeuver obviously is to furnish an ideological basis for the continual assertions of Soviet leaders concerning their peaceful intentions and their sincere desire "for co-existence". Up to the present time the thesis of "peaceful co-existence" contradicted the fundamental Communist doctrine. Now this doctrine is being made to conform to the thesis of "peaceful co-existence"...The hypocrisy of the doctrine "peaceful transition to socialism" can be found even in Khrushchev's speech when he states that "in Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Albania and other peoples' democracies of Europe" the present system came as a result of the peaceful development of socialism in these countries (such is the implication in Khrushchev's speech). About the role of the Soviet Army of Occupation and the Communist dictatorship in the establishment of the existing social and economic system in the "peoples' democracies" Khrushchev said nothing.

The Soviet Economic Offensive.

Whether Soviet military aggression has been halted, is anybody's guess, what is more certain is that the present

Soviet leaders have launched an all-out economic offensive both in Eastern Europe and in many an Asian country. Discussing Soviet Foreign Economic Policy, Mr. J. M. Letiche traces the complete economic control which the Soviet Union exercises over its satellite countries, by various short-term trade agreements. "The significance of these plans, in long-term Soviet objectives may readily be deduced from recent theoretical works of Soviet-bloc economists as to the role of foreign trade in future socialist-Communist economic development". In short, the long-term objective of Soviet foreign trade aims at bringing the economic development of its satellites completely within the Soviet orbit. The pattern of economic development,.... "Its Eastern European satellites have followed the same programme, giving prime importance to the development of heavy industry rather than to the expansion of agriculture and light industry."

In underdeveloped countries

"Communist China" writes, Mr. Letiche, "has been playing a key role as the outstretched arm of Soviet international economic policy in this potential penetration of Communism into the underdeveloped countries of Asia. Soviet and Chinese pronouncements strongly suggest that not only will China be consolidated in future Soviet-bloc five-year plans but that, in addition, it will take a leading role in such future 'peace-penetration'". One need not be an alarmist, but it is good to take note of what another Soviet citizen, Ilya J. Goldman writes, "Soviet foreign economic policy has become a serious weapon of Soviet military strategy. It replaces direct military operations. It provides for penetration of other countries by means of trade, financial aid and technical assistance. The Soviet government is developing a flexible economic policy abroad. It is publicizing its pseudo peaceful intentions in every way. But in reality it is only slightly camouflaging its military strength." One hears so much today, in Asian countries, about economic aid "without strings", but

the pity of it is that many of these countries fail to see the impossibility of such aid coming from the USSR! Then, again, many of these Asian countries are in the forefront of the struggle for human rights, but few, if any, remember that every ton of grain, every foot of timber imported from the USSR means so much output from slave camps where human rights and human dignity have no place!

C. C. C.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO SOCIAL ACTION
for 1957.

Subscribers are informed that advance subscription for 1957 is now due. Those who have not paid for 1957 already are requested to do so at an early date.

Social Survey

Warehousing

One of the most serious problems facing our small-scale and cottage industry is marketing and warehousing. With a view to help the producers the Government has set up a Central Corporation which will establish a chain of warehouses throughout the country. It will also assist the various States to set up similar establishments. The Corporation will also provide better marketing facilities. On March 2, 1957 the Central Warehousing Corporation was brought into existence. The Centre is expected to set up during the Second Five Year Plan period 100 warehouses and the States 250.

Employment

A pilot scheme to train young men for useful occupations is being set up by the Government of India. Under this scheme four Work and Orientation Centres will be established in the country one in each of the States of Delhi, Kerala, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

Each Centre will train 250 select young men who have completed their matriculation and who are registered in the Employment Exchanges. They will be given practical and theoretical training in occupation suited to their talents, and which will enable them to earn a decent living. Facilities will be given them under the scheme to promote small-scale industries by loans and other kinds of assistance which co-operative societies can provide. There will be local advisory bodies which will help trained men to find jobs under local employers.

The Employment Exchanges secured jobs for 13,869 educated persons during October-December 1956. Among those placed in jobs 9,608 were matriculates, 1,796 intermediates,

2,390 graduates, 73 engineers and 22 doctors. The number of such persons registered during the period was 103,769. Of the total number registered 78,653 were matriculates, 13,582 intermediates and 11,534 graduates. The educated employment seekers on the live registers at the end of the period numbered 244,392. Of these, 186,978 were matriculates, 30,640 intermediates and 26,774 graduates. Among the graduates were 481 engineers, 231 doctors and the rest with degrees in various subjects.

Educated women registered at the end of the period numbered 14,760 of whom 11,894 were matriculates, 1,238 intermediates and 1,628 graduates. During the last quarter Employment Exchanges registered 6,767 women of whom 734 were found jobs.

Health Centres

About 2,000 health centres in National Extension Service blocks are proposed to be established in various States with Central subsidy during the Second Five Year Plan period. There will be in addition about 1,000 health centres in Community Project areas to be opened during the Plan period.

In 1956-57 the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, trained 30 public health engineers in a ten-month course, 200 in a short three-month course. A good number of public health nurses too were trained during the year at this Institute.

The control of malaria, on a nationwide scale, is being continued in the Second Plan period for which a sum of Rs. 270 millions has been provided. The malaria control programme will also continue during the period and a provision of Rs. 90 millions has been made for this purpose.

During the course of 1957 a sum of Rs. 645,742 was given in grant-in-aid to State Governments, local bodies and voluntary organisations for family planning work.

The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences for the purpose of advanced training and research has been set up in Delhi. The estimated cost of the Institute is Rs. 47,393,000 non-recurring to be spread over a period of seven years beginning from 1953-54 and Rs. 11,755,000 recurring. The Government of New Zealand offered assistance under the Colombo Plan to the extent of £ 1,000,000 for the establishment of the Institute and out of this they have paid £ 600,000 so far.

The B.C.G. vaccination programme is being continued in all States. About 82,151,105 persons were tuberculin-tested and out of them 28,527,398 were B.C.G.-vaccinated upto November 30, 1956. The establishment of 637 beds in various States for the segregation of T.B. patients living in crowded homes has been approved during the current year. The total number of such beds proposed to be established during the Second Five Year Plan period is 4,000. It is also proposed to establish 200 T.B. clinics and to up-grade about 100 existing clinics so that each district should have at least one clinic.

Leprosy control work too is being continued. A provision of Rs. 40,900,000 has been made for that purpose. It is proposed to establish 100 additional subsidiary centres in the States during the Second Plan period compared with four treatment centres and 30 subsidiary centres set up during the First Five Year Plan.

Railways

During 1955-56 the Indian Railways earned Rs. 3,162,900,000 made up of 1,077,100,000 under passenger and Rs. 1,802,800,000 from goods, the balance of Rs. 283,000,000 being contributed by parcels, luggage and other miscellaneous sources of revenue.

The Indian Railways performed the following tasks daily in 1955-56 :—

Daily they carried 3,550,000 passengers—just under one per cent of India's total population.

Each hour of the day and night, an average of 148,000 people boarded the trains. In all more than 36 million more people travelled in 1955-56 than in the previous year.

The people of India performed train journeys aggregating nearly 107,000,000 miles daily. Everyday passengers trains traversed a total of 316,000 miles—six and a half times round the earth at the equator. Goods trains covered another 226,000 miles per day.

Every day an average of more than 315,000 tons of goods were lifted. From stations and yards throughout the country, 21,500 loaded wagons moved off daily.

The railways spent on various services rendered to the public Rs. 7,100,000 each working day.

Technical Education

In order to meet the increasing demand for technical personnel for the industrial development of the country during the Second Plan period, the All-India Council for Technical Education has approved the establishment of 5 new engineering colleges, 22 polytechnics and 61 junior polytechnical schools as provided for in the Second Five Year Plan of the State Governments.

Of the 5 engineering colleges, one each will be established in Andhra, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Punjab. Of the 22 polytechnics, 5 have been allotted to Bombay, 2 each to Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and one each to Kerala, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir. Out of the 61 junior

technical schools 18 will be established in Kerala, 10 in Bihar, 7 in West Bengal, 6 in Punjab, 5 in Madhya Pradesh, 4 each in Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir, 2 each in Bombay and Orissa and one each in Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura.

Besides 19 engineering colleges and 46 polytechnics now functioning will be expanded to provide for 2,540 additional seats for degree courses and 4,225 seats for diploma courses. These measures are expected to result in an annual out-turn of about 7,500 engineering graduates and 15,000 diploma-holders by 1960-61.

Labour Welfare

The Central Government spent on Labour Welfare during 1955-56 Rs. 109,559,794.

Provident Fund

The Government has decided to extend the benefit of compulsory contributory provident fund under the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952 to workers in plantations of tea (except in Assam where a similar Act of the State Government is already in operation), coffee, rubber, cardamom and pepper employing 50 or more workers. With this extension 360,000 of additional workers are likely to get provident fund benefits and their monthly contributions to the fund including the employers' share are estimated to amount to Rs. 1,652,000.

The Employees' Provident Fund Act was initially enforced in November 1952 in six industries, namely cement, cigarettes, electrical, mechanical and general engineering products, iron and steel, paper and textiles. The Act was extended to 13 additional industries in July 1956, to another four in September 1956 and to the Newspaper Establishments with effect from December 31, 1956. In January of this year the mineral oil refining industry also was brought under the

Act. The original Act which applied only to factory workers was amended by Parliament in December 1956 to empower Government to extend it to non-factory workers as well.

The total number of factories brought under the Act so far is over 4,000. The number of subscribers in the covered factories exceeds 1.7 millions. The average monthly collection of provident fund contributions amounts to about Rs. 16.5 millions. The total contributions upto November 1956 amounted to about Rs. 730,000,000.

Community Projects

The Community Development and National Extension Service schemes started on 2 October, 1952 have made remarkable progress. Upto the end of September 1956, nearly 11.14 families have been benefited. The Scheme presently covers 192,000 villages. A higher number of families (7.85 million families) is covered by the Community Development Blocks than by the National Extension Service Blocks (3.29 million families).

Besides fulfilling various types of small development projects in different fields of village life, the Development Programme provided full-time employment to 146,000 persons and part-time employment to 158,000 persons.

At the end of 1956 about 10,000 workers of various categories needed to work the D.P. and N.E.S. blocks were under training. Some 30,000 have been trained already.

Industrial Relations

The Government of India have under consideration a proposal to request the I.L.O. to make available the services of an expert in the field of industrial relations for a period of six months in 1957. The functions of the expert as a consultant would be: (1) to advise and assist the Government of India on industrial relations, particularly in the field of

workers' participation in management; (2) to help in evolving concrete proposals for increased association of labour with management as an objective of the Second Five Year Plan; (3) to make recommendations on practical measures— (a) to improve the functioning of works committees and possibility of their further development as part of the system of workers' participation in management; and (b) to promote collective bargaining for the mutual settlement of industrial disputes and the procedure of Union Management consultation on matters of common interest to parties (*Labour Gazette*).

Post Offices

According to the annual report of the Union Ministry of Communications, 1,391 new post offices were opened in India during the first nine months of the year 1956-57, bringing the total number of post offices to 56,433 and 2,026 more were programmed to be opened by March 31, 1957.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department is estimated to handle during the year a total number of 3,231 million postal articles, book nearly 34 million telegrams and put through about 22 million trunk calls.

India has 311,000 telephones. In 1951 Canada had 3,113,766 telephones which works out at 22.2 per 100 population. Australia with a population of 8,000,000 has nearly 1.5 million telephones. In the United States, where telephones are in the private sector, there are over 50 million telephones. The average daily telephone conversations there in 1952 were 183,200,000. The State owned Indian Telephone Company in Bangalore manufactures 1,000 telephones a month.

I. L. O. and India

India has received much and valuable assistance from the International Labour Organisation since the inception of the First

Five Year Plan. Utilising the vast resources of man-power and raising output are the two outstanding problems in India. The ILO has done much to help solve these problems.

In order to co-ordinate the assessment of the technical and skilled personnel required for the implementation of the First Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission had created a Working Group on Man-power studies. The ILO Asian Field Office at Bangalore assisted this Working Group in various ways. Gaps began to appear as the implementation of the Plan proceeded and the problem of unemployment became more acute. A committee appointed by Government recommended that the Employment Service Organisation should collect and analyse on a continuing basis information regarding the supply as well as the current and anticipated demands for labour, and it should institute a vocational testing and counselling service.

India had asked for and obtained two experts from the ILO in 1955. One of the experts, from the Ministry of Labour and National Services in the U.K., assisted in organising a pilot project in Delhi State for collecting exhaustive data from employers regarding existing level of employment and the anticipated demand. When the scheme is extended to the employment market areas, it will help India's Labour Ministry in undertaking measures to regulate the supply of personnel and train man-power in occupations in which employment opportunities are likely to occur.

The expert on occupational classification and vocational counselling brought up to date the existing plans in the fields of occupational information, vocational guidance, employment counselling and youth employment service. He then took up the classification of occupations on the basis of the ILO International Standard Classification of Occupations.

India needs trained personnel to attend to a number of items. To meet the need, as a first step, a school was set up to

train instructors. In 1955 the Institute at Koni-Bilaspur had turned out 1,375 instructors. The ILO supplied two experts to help in this scheme. They are helping in the reorganisation of the Koni-Bilaspur Institute and will also assist in the establishment of a second institute during the Second Five Year Plan period. The ILO is also assisting in the matter of equipment for these institutes.

The ILO has done much to promote and place on sound footing the Training Within Industry (T.W.I.) programme.

Another field where ILO help has been very welcome is the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. Experts lent by the Organisation have advised the Government on the implementation of the Act in the fields of administration, financing and training. India also availed itself of ILO Fellowships for training its nationals, all employees of the Employees' State Corporation, abroad.

F. C. R.

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL ORDER

AIMS AND OBJECTS

1. To spread the social teachings of the Catholic Church.
2. To provide theoretical and practical training for social workers.
3. To serve as a centre of information about social works.

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